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An
Inaugural
Dissertation
On
Uterine Hemorrhage

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Of Uterine Hemorrhage

All profuse discharges from the Uterus says the ingenious Burns, are considered as Hemorrhages They are very generally attended with considerable danger and may occur either in the impregnated or unimpregnated state of the Uterus. The following remarks will be confined to those cases alone which arise from accidents principally. Generally our most prompt attention and most powerfull medicines are demanded

Causes. Violent exertions of strength such as lifting heavy bodies, these by affecting the circulation

cause a greater flow of blood to the Uterine vessels than they are capable of bearing without rupture—

Great violence done to the Uterus by blows or falls—too great straining at stool, and stooping too frequently—Plethora—violent passions of the mind as anger fear &c. great fatigue—being much confined in warm apartments &c.

Treatment—

In the treatment of this disease we should attend particularly to the state of the system—Uterine Hemorrhage may be attended either with a highly inflammatory state of the system, or with one low and exhausted.

When it is accompanied with headache, giddiness dyspnoea,

pain in the back and loins, and a strong full and corded pulse, there should not be the least hesitation as to the employment of the directly depleting remedies.—

To subdue arterial action is the first step to be taken— to accomplish which we are in the first place to have recourse to the lancet, which in many cases requires to be urged to a considerable extent. co-operating to the same end the bowels should be opened by mild saline purges, and a state of absolute rest enjoined, together with the whole antiphlogistic regimen— these medicines will seldom effect a cure, we have now to resort to a class of medicines denominated astringents, at the head of which

stands the acetate of Lead. This given in the dose of v or vi grs. every half hour or hour as the case may require seldom fails of doing infinite service. In several instances professor Chapman has administered it to the extent of XXX, XL or L grs. before he could suppress the discharge and never in ~~one~~ a single instance found any evil consequences to result from it —

Ipecacuanha has been prefered by many very eminent physicians to the acetate of Lead this medicine to do good must be administered in small doses so as not to induce vomiting. The modus operandi of Ipecac: I am incompetent to explain but be that as it may the effects are

very salutary, and when we have an article of such value its mode of operation is merely a secondary consideration. The dose is one or two grains combined with half a grain of Opium, and given as the case may require.

The mineral acids have been used with success in some cases of Hemorrhage from the Uterus but unless the discharge be moderate they are of little avail. when used the Sulphuric is preferred and is generally given very freely in the dose of XL or L drops.

Van Helmont was the first who used alum in this disease and this as far as is known was the first application of the medicine. this celebrated Physician remarks

that it seldom fails to check the Hemorrhage if taken freely. It is without doubt an efficacious medicine but of late years it has been supplanted by the more useful remedies. Acetate of Lead and Ipecacuanha. It is given either alone or in combination with Gum Kino & catechu. The proper dose is 2. 5. or 10 grs each. it is also advantageously combined with Opium.—

(Lot à little has been said of the effects of Digitalis in Uterine Hemorrhage; formerly it was recommended in the active stage in place of the lancet, but venesection in cases where the discharge is copious, stands unrivalled. In the use of this article great

care and circumspection is requisite it may be used after arterial action has been subdued if the discharge be not very copious

Opium — The Practitioners of Europe use this medicine very freely in hemorrhages especially in those from the Uterus It is of undoubted efficacy in the disease, but should not be used unless in cases where it is connected with considerable pain irritation and spasm of the Uterus by which irregular motions the discharge is kept up and continued, venesection should be premised, as its effects are detrimental where there is considerable activity of the circulation.

The foregoing

are the principal remedies which acting through the medium of the general system are found to be of the greatest advantage in the management of Uterine Hemorrhage

In addition to these there are several topical applications from which infinite service is often derived. The most advantageous of which is unquestionably cold applied in various forms. It is a very common practice to apply cloths wrung out of cold water or vinegar to the pudendum or abdomen of the patient, also when the case is a very alarming one, it is not uncommon to introduce into the vagina a lump of ice, or when this is not at hand, a plug made of cloths wrung out of cold water.

But the most effectual plan of employing cold where there is profuse hemorrhage is by pouring water from a pretty considerable height on the abdomen in a small stream. In very many instances this has been productive of very decided advantages.

Styptics or astringent liquids — Solutions of Alum, Acetate of Lead, White Vitriol &c. have been used, but the advantages resulting from them are not very prominent and are now nearly obsolete. In some instances we may look for great relief to be obtained from injecting large quantities of Laud: into the rectum, especially where there exists irritation and spasm of the Uterus —

There is a kind of hemorrhage different from the one already noticed upon which I shall make a few remarks and close the subject. It is Stillicidium or a chronic discharge of blood from the uterus sometimes in very small quantities and at others profuse.

It seldom or never occurs in early life and is generally attended by weakness. It is a disease which is sometimes very difficult to remove.

We should begin in the treatment of this disease try the remedies already mentioned in active hemorrhage except the depleting plan, and if these should fail we should then resort to mercury. which has been

found nearly in every case in which it has been employed, to remove the disease

It is a remedy which has been introduced into practice by Doctr. Joseph Klapp within a year or two past, which claims some orignality in practice

He uses it to the extent of a moderate ptyalism, and asserts it is the most efficacious remedy he has ever tried in the disease

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